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12 June 1956

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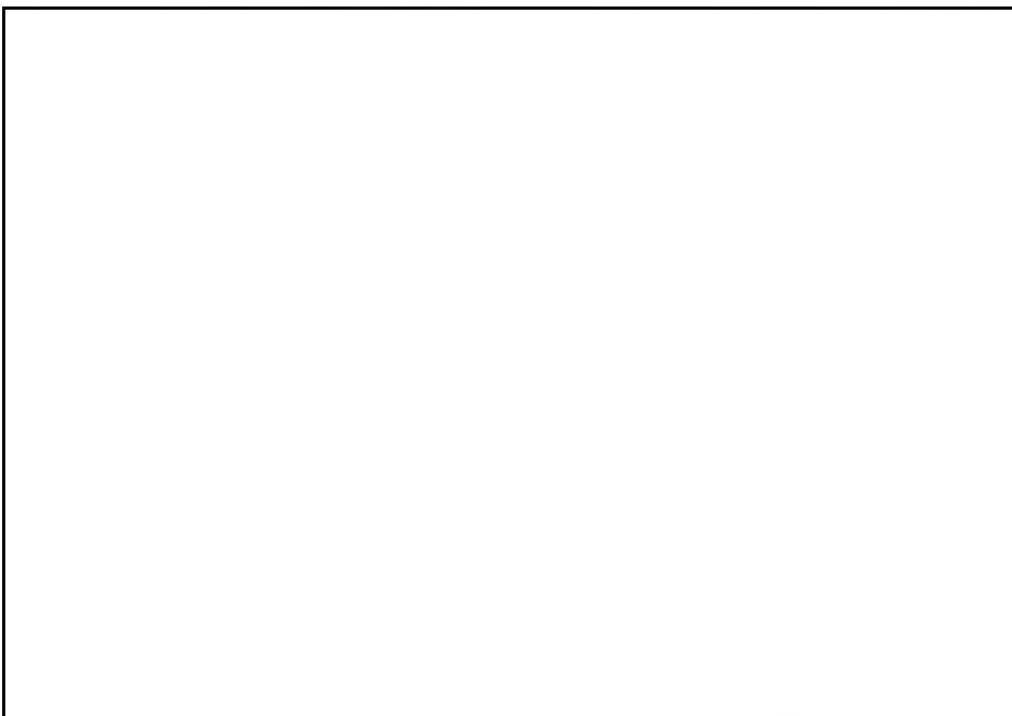
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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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NAVY review(s) completed.

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25X1A

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CONTENTS

- 1. AIR RECONNAISSANCE FINDS NO CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS ON PARACELS**

25X1

25X1

25X1

- 4. MALENKOV REPORTEDLY INVITED TO PARIS**

(page 8).

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

25X1

12 June 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 2

25X1A

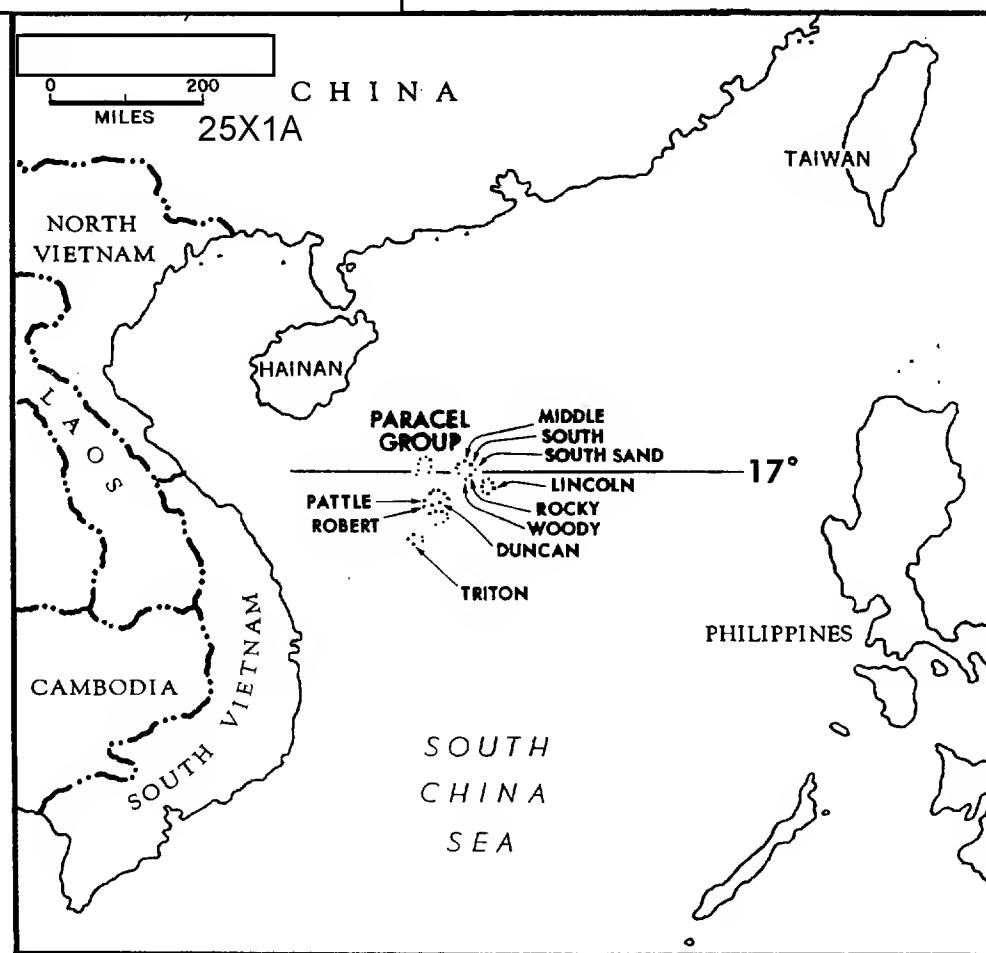
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1. AIR RECONNAISSANCE FINDS NO CHINESE COMMUNIST TROOPS ON PARACELS

25X1A

Contrary to earlier Vietnamese reports of Chinese Communist troops on Robert Island in the Paracel group, aerial reconnaissance of 9 and 10 June revealed no Communist military activity in the area.

Some 75 persons were spotted on Robert on 9 June gathering guano. Since the Chinese Communists are



25X1A

12 June 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 3

carrying out similar work on Woody Island to the north, these individuals are presumed to be Communist civilians. Their visit to Robert was apparently temporary. No activity or personnel was seen there on 10 June.

The arrival of the guano gatherers on Robert apparently panicked the Vietnamese army unit on nearby Pattle Island, which still insists the move was a troop landing. The unit originally asked Saigon for permission to withdraw from Pattle.

According to late word from Taipei, the two Nationalist destroyer escorts now operating in the Spratly group, several hundred miles south, will not proceed to the Paracels as previously indicated.

25X1

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

4. MALENKOV REPORTEDLY INVITED TO PARIS

25X1A

[Redacted]

The head of the Eastern European section of the French Foreign Ministry informed American representatives in Paris on 8 June that he is preparing, at the request of Foreign Minister Pineau, an invitation for eight or nine Soviet state planning officials to visit France. He thinks

former premier Georgi Malenkov may be invited along with this group.

According to a semiofficial French Press Agency report of 7 June, Malenkov, who is now minister of Electric Power Stations, will soon go to Paris in response to an invitation extended by the French Economic Council delegation which visited the USSR last September. The report said his visit would precede that of Khrushchev and Bulganin.

Comment

Premier Mollet and Pineau have insisted on the importance of increased personal contacts between East and West. No date has been mentioned for the visit either of Malenkov or of the other Soviet leaders.

12 June 56**Current Intelligence Bulletin****Page 8**

25X1A

25X1A

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 11 June)

Nothing of significance to report.

12 June 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 9

25X1A